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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
9 **EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
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11 DAVID L. HOLCOMB, SR.,

12 Plaintiff,

13 v.

14 PFIZER INC.; and DOES 1-100,  
15 INCLUSIVE, et al.,

16 Defendants.  
17

Case No. 1:20-cv-01008-DAD-BAM

**INFORMATIONAL ORDER  
FOR PRO SE LITIGANTS**

18 INFORMATIONAL ORDER TO PRO SE LITIGANTS

19 Plaintiff David L. Holcomb, Sr., is proceeding *pro se* in this action.

20 In litigating this action, the parties must comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure  
21 (F.R.C.P.) and the Local Rules of the United States District Court, Eastern District of California  
22 (Local Rules). This order highlights specific rules of which the parties should take particular note.  
23 **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE LOCAL RULES, FEDERAL RULES OR A COURT**  
24 **ORDER, INCLUDING THIS ORDER, WILL BE GROUNDS FOR DISMISSAL OR**  
25 **OTHER APPROPRIATE SANCTIONS.** *See* Local Rule 110; Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b).

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1           1. Documents intended to be filed with the Court must be mailed to the Clerk of the  
2 Court. *See* Local Rule 134(a). **All documents improperly mailed to a judge's chambers will**  
3 **be stricken from the record.** A document requesting a Court order must be styled as a motion.  
4 *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 7.

5           2. Each document submitted for filing must include the original signature of the  
6 filing party or parties. Local Rule 131; Fed. R. Civ. P. 11(a). **All documents submitted without**  
7 **the required signature(s) will be stricken.**<sup>1</sup> Each separate document must be separately stapled.  
8 *See* Local Rule 130. If a document is stapled behind another document, it will not be filed and  
9 will not be entered on this Court's docket.

10           3. All documents filed with the Court must be submitted with an additional legible  
11 conformed copy for the Court's use. *See* Local Rule 133(d)(2). **A document submitted without**  
12 **an extra copy for the Court's use will be stricken.** If the filing party wishes the Court to return  
13 a file-stamped copy, he or she must include an additional copy for that purpose (i.e., submit an  
14 original and two copies, one for the Court's use and one to be returned). **The Court cannot**  
15 **provide copy or mailing service for a party**, even for an indigent plaintiff proceeding in forma  
16 pauperis. Therefore, if the filing party wishes a file-stamped copy returned, the party must also  
17 provide an envelope with adequate postage pre-paid. Copies of documents from the Court file  
18 may be obtained at the cost of 50 cents per page.

19           4. After any defendants have appeared in an action by filing a pleading responsive to  
20 the complaint (i.e., an answer or a motion to dismiss), all documents filed with the Court must  
21 include a certificate of service stating that a copy of the document was served on the opposing  
22 party. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 5; Local Rule 135(c). **A document submitted without the required**  
23 **proof of service will be stricken.** Where a party is represented, service on the party's attorney of  
24 record constitutes effective service. A sample of a proper proof of service is attached hereto.

25           5. All filings must bear the file number assigned to the action, followed by the initials  
26 of the District Court Judge and the Magistrate Judge to whom the case is assigned. Where  
27 Plaintiff simultaneously pursues more than one action, he or she must file separate original

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28 <sup>1</sup> When a document is stricken, it becomes a nullity and is not considered by the Court for any purposes.

documents and the appropriate number of copies in each action to which the document pertains.

**Documents submitted listing more than one case number in the caption will be stricken.**

6. The Court cannot serve as a repository for the parties' evidence. The parties may not file evidence with the Court until the course of litigation brings the evidence into question (for example, on a motion for summary judgment, at trial, or when requested by the Court). **Evidence improperly submitted to the Court will be stricken and returned to the party.**

7. All Court deadlines will be strictly enforced. Requests for time extensions must state the reason the extension is needed and must be filed with the Court before the deadline in question. *See* Local Rule 144.

8. A plaintiff proceeding in propria persona has an affirmative duty to keep the Court and opposing parties informed of his or her current address. If a plaintiff moves and fails to file a notice of change of address, service of Court orders at plaintiff's prior address shall constitute effective notice. *See* Local Rule 182(f). If mail directed to plaintiff is returned by the U.S. Postal Service as undeliverable, the Court will not attempt to re-mail it. **If the address is not updated within 63 days of the mail being returned, the action will be dismissed for failure to prosecute.** *See* Local Rule 183(b).

9. Due to the press of business, the Court cannot respond to individual requests for the status of cases. Any such requests will be denied. So long as the parties inform the Court of any address changes in compliance with Local Rule 183(b), the Court will notify the parties of any Court action taken in their case.

10. Defendants must reply to the complaint within the time provided by the applicable provisions of Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(a).

11. Unless otherwise ordered, all motions to dismiss, motions for summary judgment, motions concerning discovery, motions pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 7, 11, 12, 15, 41, 55, 56, 59 and 60, and motions pursuant to Local Rule 110 shall be briefed pursuant to Local Rule 230. Failure to oppose such a motion timely may be deemed a waiver of opposition to the motion.

12. At some point in the litigation, one or more defendants may move for summary judgment as to some or all of plaintiff's claims. Pursuant to *Klingele v. Eikenberry*, 849 F.2d 409

(9th Cir. 1988), plaintiff is advised of the following requirements for opposing a motion for summary judgment made by defendants pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 56. Such a motion is a request for an order for judgment on some or all of plaintiff's claims in favor of defendants without trial. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a). Defendant(s)' motion will set forth the facts which defendants contend are not reasonably subject to dispute and that entitle defendant to judgment as a matter of law. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c).

Plaintiff has the right to oppose a motion for summary judgment. To oppose the motion, plaintiff must show proof of his or her claims. Plaintiff may agree with the facts set forth in defendant(s)' motion but argue that defendant(s) are not entitled to judgment as a matter of law. Plaintiff may show defendant(s)' facts are disputed in one or more of the following ways: (1) plaintiff may rely upon statements made under the penalty of perjury in the complaint if the complaint shows that plaintiff has personal knowledge of the matters stated and if plaintiff calls to the court's attention those parts of the complaint upon which plaintiff relies; (2) plaintiff may also serve and file affidavits or declarations<sup>2</sup> setting forth the facts which plaintiff believes prove plaintiff's claims (the persons who sign the affidavit or declaration must have personal knowledge of the facts stated); (3) plaintiff may also rely upon written records but plaintiff must prove that the records are what plaintiff claims they are;<sup>3</sup> (4) plaintiff may also rely upon all or any part of the transcript of one or more depositions, answers to interrogatories, or admissions obtained in this proceeding. Should plaintiff fail to contradict defendants' motion with affidavits, declarations, or other evidence, defendants' evidence will be taken as truth, and final judgment may be entered without a full trial. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(e).

If there is some good reason why such facts are not available to plaintiff when required to oppose such a motion, the Court will consider a request to postpone considering defendant(s)'

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<sup>2</sup> An affidavit is a written declaration or statement of facts, made voluntarily, and confirmed by the oath or affirmation of the party making it, taken before an officer having authority to administer such oath. An unsworn declaration has the same effect as an affidavit, provided that it is dated and signed under penalty of perjury, as follows: "I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct." 28 U.S.C. § 1746. Affidavits and declarations must be made on personal knowledge and must set forth facts as would be admissible in evidence. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c).

<sup>3</sup> Sworn or certified copies of all papers referred to in an affidavit must be attached to the affidavit and served on the opposing party. Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c).

1 motion. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(d). If plaintiff does not serve and file a request to postpone  
2 consideration of defendant(s)' motion or written opposition to the motion, the court may consider  
3 plaintiff's failure to act as a waiver of opposition to defendant(s)' motion. Plaintiff's waiver of  
4 opposition to defendant(s)' motion may result in the entry of summary judgment against plaintiff.

5 13. A motion supported by affidavits or declarations that are unsigned will be stricken.

6 14. The failure of any party to comply with this order, the Federal Rules of Civil  
7 Procedure, or the Local Rules of Court, may result in the imposition of sanctions including, but  
8 not limited to, dismissal of the action or entry of default.

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10 IT IS SO ORDERED.

11 Dated: March 24, 2022

12 /s/ Barbara A. McAuliffe  
13 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
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